PROPOSED DESIGNATION, UNDER THE PLENARY POWERS, FOR THE GENERIC NAME "LERNAEOCERA" (EMEND OF "LERNEOCERA") BLAINVILLE, 1822 (CLASS CRUSTACEA, ORDER COPEPODA) OF A TYPE SPECIES IN HARMONY WITH CURRENT NOMENCLATORIAL USAGE

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The object of the present application is to secure authority from the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature for the continued use of the well-known generic name *Lernaeocera* Blainville, 1822 (emend of *Lerneocera* by Nordmann, 1832), in the sense established by Wilson (C.B.), 1917, with the type species *Lernaea branchialis* Linnaeus, 1767.

2. The genus *Lernaea* was included by Linnaeus in *Systema Naturae*, 10th edition, 1758 (**1** : 655) and comprised three species, *L. cyprinacea*, *L. asellina*, and *L. salmonea*, listed by him in the order here presented. In the 12th edition of 1767 Linnaeus repeated this treatment, but in addition included a new species, *L. branchialis* (**1** : 1092), which was placed first in the listing. Blainville (1822, *J. Physique* 95) reallocated most of the many species which had accumulated by that date in *Lernaea* to new genera proposed by him. For a group of species, including *L. branchialis* L. and *L. cyprinacea* L., Blainville (: 375) erected the genus *Lerneocera* [sic.]. In the original proposition of the genus, Blainville, although clearly indicating that his object was the subdivision of the Linnaean genus *Lernaea*, spelled the name under consideration as *Lerneocera*. Nordmann (1832, *Mikrogr. Beitr. Naturg. wirbel. Thiere*, pt. **2** : 54) used the emendation conforming to Linnaeus's spelling, and this has been practically universally employed since.

3. Krøyer (1835, *Naturh. Tidsskr.* **1** : 191) partially reversing Blainville's treatment, synonymized with *Lernaea* part of the genus *Lernaeocera* of Blainville. He assigned *L. branchialis* L., *L. cyclopterina* Fabricius and *L. surrirensis* [sic] Blainville to *Lernaea* and (: 192) placed *L. cyprinacea* L. and *L. esocina* Burmeister in *Lernaeocera*. This scheme, with the additional weight of the precedence of *L. branchialis* in the list of species of *Lernaea* in the 12th edition of the *Systema Naturae*, was adopted as general usage by succeeding 19th century authors and the majority of references to *Lernaea branchialis* L. are under the Linnaean generic name.

4. Cunnington (1914, *Proc. zool. Soc. Lond.* **1914** : 820) was the first author to designate a type species for the genus *Lernaeocera* Blainville. He was aware

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of the ambiguities existing in the historical usage and of the proprieties involved with reference to the International Rules of Zoological Nomenclature. In order to secure the continued association of the genus *Lernaeocera* with the series of freshwater parasitic copepods long known under that generic name, Cunnington designated *L. cyprinacea* L. as the type species of the genus.

5. *Lernaeocera* in its current usage for distinctive marine parasites was " restored " by C. B. Wilson (1917, *Proc. U.S. nat. Mus.*, **53**) by his designation (: 37) for the type species of *Lernaea* Linnaeus of *L. cyprinacea* L., 1758, and (: 84) for the type of *Lernaeocera* Blainville of *L. branchialis* Linnaeus, 1767. No author prior to Wilson had expressly selected a type species for *Lernaea* Linnaeus, so the result of Wilson's action is to establish *Lernaeocera* as an objective synonym of *Lernaea*, and the genus of which *L. branchialis* is the type species is without an available generic name. It is hereby therefore proposed to resort to the Plenary Powers of the Commission for validation of the name *Lernaeocera*.

6. The abandonment of the generic name *Lernaeocera* (as would be entirely proper and regular under application of the normal provisions of the Rules of Nomenclature) would be a most unfortunate compounding of a state of confusion and vexation already existing with regard to this animal. *Lernaea branchialis* Linnaeus has been widely cited in textbooks and other works of general application as a classical example of a parasitic copepod exhibiting profound modifications of structure, physiological processes, and life history. An extensive literature has been built up with reference to these features. Between the date of Krøyer's revision and the time of Wilson's treatment, nearly a century, usage was almost universal in referring the species to *Lernaea* Linnaeus, which was a thoroughly logical development of the arrangement of Linnaeus's 12th edition. The adoption of the 10th edition of the *Systema Naturae* as the basis of the International Rules provided the technicality which led Wilson to switching the long established usage. Workers publishing since Wilson's action have been most remarkably unanimous in their deference to this strict adherence to the Rules of Nomenclature. However, it has not yet been pointed out in any publication available to me that the logical conclusion of the process which Wilson initiated would be the submergence of the name *Lernaeocera*.

7. Wilson, 1917 (: 81) in his revision of the LERNAEIDAE, used *Lernaeocera*, in the sense of his new designation, as the type genus of a subfamily LERNAEOCERINAE. Gurney (1932, *British Freshwater Copepoda*, **3** : 336) elevated the group to full familial status.

8. As has been explained earlier in the present application, the spelling *Lerneocera* used by Blainville in 1822 when establishing the genus so named was emended to *Lernaeocera* by Nordmann in 1832 and that spelling has been used by almost all subsequent authors. The authoritative works of Wilson, 1917, and of Gurney, 1932, indicate in their synonymies such usage. It would clearly lead to undesirable instability and interference with current nomenclatorial practice if it were necessary now to revert to the original but incorrect spelling used by Blainville. The Fourteenth International Congress of Zoology at Copenhagen in 1953 provided a means for preventing disturbances in nomenclature of this kind (1953, *Copenhagen Decisions zool. Nomencl.* : 45—46), but this procedure is not appropriate in a case like the present where an immediate decision is required. Without such a decision it will not be possible for the Commission to deal with the main part of the present application, namely the designation of an appropriate type species for Blainville's genus under the Plenary Powers, for, in taking a decision in this sense the Commission would be bound to place the generic name in question on the *Official List* and this would not be possible until a decision had been reached on the question of the spelling to be approved for that genus. I therefore ask the Commission, while using its Plenary Powers for the purpose of designating a type species for this genus, to use those Powers also for the purpose of approving the spelling *Lernaeocera,* for this is the only way by which that spelling can be standardized and confusion avoided.

9. To prevent further complication in the literature, which reversal in usage in application of these names has already brought about, the following proposal is submitted for consideration by the Commission, namely :—

(1) that is should use its Plenary Powers :—

  (a) to approve the emendation to *Lernaeocera* of the generic name *Lerneocera* Blainville, 1822 ;

  (b) to set aside all type selections for the foregoing genus made prior to the decision now asked for and to designate *Lernaea branchialis* Linnaeus, 1767, to be its type species ;

(2) to place the under-mentioned generic names on the *Official List of Generic Names in Zoology* :—

  (a) *Lernaea* Linnaeus, 1758 (gender : feminine) (type species, by selection by Wilson (1917) : *Lernaea cyprinacea* Linnaeus, 1758) ;

  (b) *Lernaeocera* (emendation under the Plenary Powers, under (1)(a) above, of *Lerneocera*) Blainville, 1822 (gender : feminine) (type species, by designation under the Plenary Powers under (1)(b) above : *Lernaea branchialis* Linnaeus, 1767) ;

(3) to place the under-mentioned specific names on the *Official List of Specific Names in Zoology* :—

(a) *cyprinacea* Linnaeus, 1758, as published in the combination *Lernaea cyprinacea* (specific name of type species of *Lernaea* Linnaeus, 1758) ;

(b) *branchialis* Linnaeus, 1767, as published in the combination *Lernaea branchialis* (specific name of type species, by designation, under the Plenary Powers, under (1)(b) above, of *Lernaeocera* (emend. of *Lerneocera*) Blainville, 1822).

SUPPORT FOR DR. I. H. H. YARROW'S PROPOSAL FOR THE REPHRASING OF THE DECISION TAKEN BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION REGARDING THE NAME OF THE TYPE SPECIES OF "FORMICA" LINNAEUS, 1758

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(**Commission's reference : Z.N.(S.) 776**)

(For Dr. Yarrow's proposals, see 1954, *Bull. zool. Nomencl.* 9(10) : 313—317)

(Communication received 17th February 1955)

I strongly support Dr. I. H. H. Yarrow's application for the suppression of *Formica rufa* Linnaeus, 1758 ; the retention of *Formica rufa* Linnaeus, 1761 with the type, a female ; and the retention of *Formica* Linnaeus, 1758, with the type species *Formica rufa* Linnaeus, 1761.